



Covid-19 Updates for September 25, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, and Friends,

To the best of our calculations, this is the 53rd letter that we have sent you since the beginning of our struggle with Covid-19 back in March. That is a lot of information, and part of our commitment to being transparent with our residents and families. For our families and friends, if you no longer wish to receive these letters, please remember that you can always use the unsubscribe button at the bottom of the page.

As you know, a few weeks ago we experienced our first outbreak of Covid in our North Huntingdon and Greensburg campuses. Remember that the Department of Health defines an outbreak as just ONE case in either an employee or resident. I am pleased to tell you that at North Huntingdon we have had 14 days with no additional positive cases and are able to return to “green” in that building and restart our visitor program on 10/4. In Greensburg, we are awaiting test results from this week’s testing for staff and residents. Most of the staff results are back and are all negative at this point. We hope to receive the remaining 20 staff results and all of the resident results today or tomorrow. IF those are negative, we’ll be clear in Greensburg as well and can restart the visitor program that same week. The fact that we’ve had no additional positive test results is proof of strong infection control practices by our employees, AND our residents and families. We’re grateful in your continued efforts to be vigilant both at Redstone, and out in the community. Remember that wearing your mask is the single most effective way to stop the spread of Covid-19.

As we relaunch our in-person visitor program for North Huntingdon and Greensburg, please remember that visits for Nursing Home and Personal Care residents must be scheduled on our visitor website at <https://redstonefamilyvisitscheduler.as.me/>. As per guidelines, these visits will continue to take place outdoors if at all possible. Until the weather really becomes colder, we will be trying to continue outdoor visits for the safety of our residents. Please dress accordingly for the weather when you come for a visit. We will make sure that the residents are dressed appropriately for the visit, too. At the discretion of our campus directors, visits may be moved indoors to neutral visitor stations on inclement weather days.

There are new guidelines in place from the state and federal government about the role of “compassionate caregivers” in resident’s lives. We are finalizing our Redstone policies for this program, and those whose residents are eligible will begin receiving information next week. These new guidelines allow for one designated family member to take a more active role in the care of a resident who has shown documented decline in two or more areas.

We are now required to perform monthly testing on all of our employees who work on the Greensburg, North Huntingdon, and Murrysville campuses. Unless there are additional cases, this testing will be limited to employees. Should we have additional cases, our contact tracing process will inform our decisions about testing residents. Those of you who live locally have probably been following the situation at Westmoreland Manor with great interest, as they have now discovered 47 residents testing positive. While we believe that our infection control practices at Redstone are exceptional, we cannot look in judgment upon an organization that is facing this level of crisis. As the virus continues to spread, any senior living community could find itself in this situation. We have reached out to Westmoreland Manor to offer our support, and to send them some of the surplus of supplies that we received during our small outbreak. Please keep them in your prayers.

There are a couple of non-Covid related subjects that I want to share with you. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we have had to postpone our 2020 Highlands Fling, which was to be a Ruby Redstone Ball in honor of Redstone's 40th anniversary. This spectacular event will now take place on November 20, 2021. The cancellation of this year's Fling has an impact upon our charitable gifts for the year. We've launched a 40+1 mini-campaign to help us through this time. We hope that when you receive your letter or email, you will consider making a gift to one of the special projects we will share with you.

After many years at Redstone, Lois Springer has announced her retirement and will no longer be managing our beauty salons. We have signed a contract with PS Salon and Spa, the leading national provider of services in senior communities. We anticipate their management of our salons beginning in November. We wish Lois well upon her retirement, and we look forward to an exciting new chapter with PS.

We have received a number of beautiful quotes and notes from some of you, which we are beginning to share with our employees. These messages are a lifeline for those who are working so hard in this stressful time. If you want to send a message to be shared, feel free to simply reply to this email. Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement as we move through this time together.

Sincerely,

Vicki

Vicki Loucks, RN, MSN, MBA
Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
Redstone Presbyterian Seniorcare
Hotline: 724-972-4579 or hotline@redstone.org